

Recruiting Information Sheet

You may use this information in any way you want to entice the students into enlisting. Keep in mind that many of the people joining the enlisted ranks of the Continental Army were nearly or completely illiterate. Several original recruiting posters from the 18th century are formatted similar to today, with far more graphics than text.

- The length of enlistment in 1778 (the year that the Soldier's Day takes place) was either 3 years or the duration (length) of the war.
- Able bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 were accepted into service. Although rare, field musicians could be as young as 12.
- New recruits were promised:
 - one meal every day
 - one new uniform* per year (blanket and weapon are part of the uniform)
 - shelter
 - 6 and 2/3 dollars per month as a Private

Also,

- In 1778, the victory at Saratoga has brought alliances with France, Spain, and the Netherlands. This means more money, weapons, and soldiers for us!
- The United States has taken back Fort Ticonderoga on Lake Champlain for its own, securing even more of New York State against the British.
- Baron von Steuben began training the troops staying at Valley Forge throughout the winter between 1777 and 1778, transforming them into a superior fighting force. Now that winter has passed, many officers from throughout the Army have gone to receive training in the new way of soldiering.

*Uniform consists of:

- Regimental Coat
- Hat
- Shirt
- Neck Stock (leather band)
- Waistcoat (vest)
- Breeches or trousers
- Stockings
- Shoes